



WASHINGTON STATE
GAMBLING COMMISSION

Field Operation Rule Interpretation

Question: Can a card room licensee raise their wagering limit on a table in play while "grandfathering" current players at the lower limit?

CITE: WAC 230-40-800

SUMMARY

Issue:

A licensee is operating a blackjack game offering a minimum wager of \$5.00. During the course of play, the table begins to fill with players, so the floor supervisor raises the minimum wager to \$25.00 for any new players who sit down to play. However, the licensee allows the original players to bet at the \$5.00 minimum since that was the limit when they began wagering. Is this authorized?

Reasoning:

Licensees are required to establish rules and procedures governing each specific house banked card game played at their premises. This includes the procedures of play and any minimum and maximum permissible wagers for each game.

Decision:

Yes. It is a common practice in gambling establishments to raise the minimum betting limits while at the same time accommodating the customers who were playing at the lower limits. Once the player leaves the table, they are not allowed to come back and bet at the lower limit. If a licensee chooses to offer this service, they must have this practice stated in their internal controls and inform their customers of this practice at the gaming table.

Approved:

Cally Cass
Cally Cass, Assistant Director
Washington State Gambling Commission

Date:

7/15/05